

JOHN BRINSMEAD & SONS recently patented **SOUTHERN PIANOS** for the Iron Frame, made especially for China, having gained the **Prize** at the **International Exhibition** at **Hongkong** and **Canton** (Guan Thien) at all the principal International Exhibitions. Every piano is guaranteed for five years. Illustrated Catalogue, 19, 20, and 21, Wigmore Street, London, the firm being Messrs. W. & W. Watson, 10, Grosvenor Road, Kentish Town, N. W., London. Agents Wanted.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO., FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS.
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, PARFUMERS,
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Notice.—To avoid delay in the execution of all Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON and Co., HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JUNE 22ND, 1882.

ACCORDING to strict moralists there is in every conceivable case a clearly definable right and wrong. A man may choose which he likes, and must abide by the consequences of his choice. Such a creed gives us thorough-going, uncompromising saints and sinners, with an abundance of intolerance, bigotry, and persecution. In opposition to the pretensions of this creed may be cited the difficulty which has in all times been felt by man in deciding, when placed in unusual circumstances, which is the right and which the wrong. The two are so inextricably mixed up together that when a person finds himself in this unfortunate dilemma, his only course is to call in the aid of his reason to point out the course which will entail the least amount of evil. A right-minded man cannot stand idle in the world, he must act his part; the ascetic who dies from the world in order to shun evil flees also from right and duty. Nations are in many respects subject to the same rules of conduct as individuals. A great nation has a mission to fulfil in the world. In following out this mission to the best of its ability, circumstances may and will arise in which it is not easy to say what course ought to be adopted, having regard to the dictates of morality. As a rule, however, their conduct is decided by self-interest, but in proportion as the nation is enlightened and just will its view of self-interest, tempered by its sense of duty, lead it to decide on the course which will be most beneficial not only to itself, but to its neighbours, and to the world at large. No one will deny the advantages of British rule in India, as contrasted with the grinding tyranny of the native princes and the internecine wars which it succeeded. That a nation on one side of the world, should assume to itself the government of a country, numerically far greater, at the other side of the world, seems *prima facie* most unjust. A succession of events, however, have irresistibly compelled England to this course, and the good which has attended it tremendously outweighs whatever of evil there may have been. So also in judging of the conduct of the French in Cochinchina we must have regard to the circumstances of the French colony and those of its neighbours. We do not claim for the French that they are influenced by other motives than those of self-interest in the action they have recently taken, but the inquiry may very profitably be made whether in pursuing their own interest they are not also benefiting others. In the *Japan Weekly Mail* of the 3rd instant there is an article condemning in the strongest terms the conduct of the French in Annam, to use our contemporary's words, in Tongkin, more properly speaking. The recent expedition is referred to as "such an invasion and seizure of peaceful territory as has had no precedent in all the bloody annals of annexation." It is true that in the seizure of the citadel at Haon some blood was shed, which might possibly have been spared had the operations been more adroitly conducted. Some three hundred of the defenders of the citadel were killed. The loss of life is to be regretted. In attempting to arrive at an opinion of the morality of the policy of the French, however, the errors of the military commanders can hardly be regarded as affecting the question. If it is granted that the policy was a right one, it is at the same time easily conceivable that the military carried it out with unnecessary severity, just as in the converse case an unrighteous policy might be carried out with a considerable regard to the dictates of mercy. Leaving out of consideration, therefore, the military question, we will confine ourselves to an inquiry as to the morality of the policy. According to the *Japan Mail* it is one of invasion and seizure of peaceful territory, and the expedition is spoken of as a "well organized filibustering outrage." "We are unaware," says our contemporary, "that any offence had been offered by the Annamites to their French neighbours. There have been exaggerated and probably distorted accounts of local misrule; and these seem to have formed the sole excuse for French aggression. But, even if Annam were disturbed, the row in one's neighbour's house must have assumed dire dimensions before one has a right to enter it," but England has never thought she was acting the part of the tyrant when her ships of war chased down slaves and liberated the living cargo. This parallel is, we are aware, rather far-fetched, but it is very applicable as that of the "row in one's neighbour's house." The *Japan Mail* speaks of Tongkin as though it

were an integral part and natural province of Annan, whereas it is, in fact, a conquered kingdom. Since the conquest, Annan has been in a state of decadence, and for a long time past has been unable to govern Tongkin in anything like a reasonable way. Where she was strong the people were ground down to the most abject poverty to satisfy the demands of the Court of Hué and the rapacity of the officials, while the more distant parts of the country were given up to anarchy. A naturally fertile and rich country was the home of misery and wretchedness. The advent of the French will be followed by a skilled Government, and the people will enjoy the fruits of their labour secure from extortion and oppression. Annan loses that to which she never had any right, save that of conquest; and Tongkin changes a bad master for a good one. Peace and plenty will be found in the place of oppression and wretchedness. The advantage to the French will be that their influence and commerce will be extended. Probably in the course of years events will force upon them a more strict control of the affairs of Annan itself, and when that comes to pass it will be a happy day for Annan. If, however, led on only by greed of territory they attempt to force events too quickly, it is very possible they may come to grief, but as far as they have gone they deserve the thanks rather than the reprobation of the world.

Telegrams for Bangkok can go forward by mail closing at Singapore at 3 p.m. to-day.

The two next direct steamers, with Indian mails and the sixth sail's open, left Calcutta for this port yesterday morning.

The Japanese steamer *Nissha Maru* and the British steamer *Centaur* will leave the Cosmopolitan and Kowloon Docks respectively to-day, and their respective places will be taken by the British steamer *Pernambuco* and the Annamese steamer *Ly Toy*.

David Campbell, third engineer of the British steamer *Argus*, was brought up before Capt. H. G. Throssell, R.N., sitting as Marine Magistrate, or a charge of leaving his ship on the 18th instant and not returning on board again. He was ordered to forfeit four days' pay.

For Afia, formerly a house-coolie to Dr. Adams, was arrested the other day on a charge of attempting to break open Dr. Adams' safe in October last year while that gentleman was residing at the Peak and the coolie left in charge of the house in Caine-road. He was caught in flagrante delicto by the watchman but managed to get loose and run away from the Colony. He returned, however, a few days ago, and is now committed for trial.

We note by Australian papers received yesterday, on the 10th inst., at Sandgate, Queensland, on the occasion of the opening of the Sandgate railway, Sir Arthur Kennedy, in reply to an address, said that he had risen from a sick bed, suffering from asthma, in order to be present. At this time he held subordinate to him Governor Kennedy, who stated he had served 35 years and would remain in Queensland another year at the end of which he would retire into private life, unless the Queen required his further services. He should never forget Queensland.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."

FOR EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S LINE]

London, 20th June.

ALARM AT ISMAILIA.
There is alarm at Ismailia, as the Belouins are prowling along the banks of the Suez Canal.

ANTICIPATED RISING IN IRELAND.

Military precautions are being taken in Ireland against a rising.

THE BANDMANN COMBINATION AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

On Tuesday night, Herr Bandmann's Company played Tom Taylor's romantic drama, "Dad or Uncle," to a full house, the audience being well satisfied with the piece, which is rather a powerful one and as it has not been produced here before, we give the following sketch of it.

The play opens on the shores of Austria—Count de Moriana, Colonel of Cuirassiers, looking forwards with the greatest excitement and delight to the approaching action. His wife, Madame de Moriana, on the other hand, is always full of misgivings on the eve of a battle, but on this occasion is somewhat assured, as she has been told that the French are only sent to assist the Austrians, and that the French are to be beaten. She would call upon the French to help her, but the French are not to be beaten.

The performance given on Tuesday was the last of the subscription nights.

Melanie being absent on the seas, Marchais tries to seduce Muriel to his colour, but the latter informs him that he may be permitted to retire behind a screen and from thence have an opportunity of seeing the daughter as long lost to him. She discloses her father to the Duke and Melaine at once recognises Muriel, the former as his daughter, the Duke for his own purposes, the doctor out of kindness both propose his removal away to Charenton, and as the king has no son, he consents. But Muriel, who is a patriotic soul, says one—that he is the Count de Moriana who was killed and buried on the field at Austerlitz. As the hallucination has again manifested itself in his claiming Melanie as his daughter, the Duke for his own purposes, the doctor out of kindness both propose his removal away to Charenton, and as the king has no son, he consents. But Muriel, who is a patriotic soul, says one—that he is the Count de Moriana who was killed and buried on the field at Austerlitz.

The last act opens in the Asylum at Charenton. Simonin, suspecting that all was not right, had climbed up behind the carriage, had entered the coach and had succeeded in speaking to the Count. At length, completely broken down, the Count determines to poison himself, and writes a prescription; asking Simonin to procure it for him, explaining at the same time that it was an opiate, without which he could not sleep.

The Count's identity becomes to Simonin.

Melanie, who is still in love with Dr. Faldheim, and in whom the Count has now lost all interest, comes to the rescue of the Count, who is about to drink the poison prepared for him by Simonin. She succeeds in saving him, and the Count is soon restored to health.

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Hubbard and a man named Hubert were strung up in a barbarous manner and were unmercifully flogged. In addition to that they were struck with a knuckle duster, and a belaying pin, and exposed to other violence. He submitted that from the facts he had stated there was a prima facie case for the charge made. He thought it was probable his friend Mr. Mackean, the master of the *Strelizer*, had intended to take Hubbard and Dyer off when he had been sent to the *Strelizer*. The steward had been beaten with a knuckle duster and a nornan. The steward was entitled to administer punishment to the men when they were guilty of mutinous conduct, and it was for the jury to judge whether the punishment administered was unmerited. It was of course necessary that a captain should have large powers, and could easily be justified for the purpose of retaining his command of the ship, but he was not entitled to do so. He had been beaten with a knuckle duster and a nornan. The steward was entitled to administer punishment to the men when they were guilty of mutinous conduct, and it was for the jury to judge whether the punishment administered was unmerited. It was of course necessary that a captain should have large powers, and could easily be justified for the purpose of retaining his command of the ship, but he was not entitled to do so. He had been beaten with a knuckle duster and a nornan. The steward was entitled to administer punishment to the men when they were guilty of mutinous conduct, and it was for the jury to judge whether the punishment administered was unmerited. It was of course necessary that a captain should have large powers, and could easily be justified for the purpose of retaining his command of the ship, but he was not entitled to do so. He had been beaten with a knuckle duster and a nornan

